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Three street gang members who were wanted for crimes ranging from aggravated battery to carjacking to drug dealing near a school have been arrested, officials in Lake County announced Monday. The three had been on Lake County's "10 Most Wanted Gang Members" list, which was released in late March, according to a release from U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk's office.

Kirk, along with Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Special Agent-in-Charge Andy Traver, Lake County Sheriff Mark Curran and Waukegan Police Lt. Joe Florip announced the arrests Monday at a press conference at the ATF's Chicago offices.

On March 24, Kirk, federal and local law enforcement officials launched the Most Wanted List to raise the public profile of fugitive gang leaders. After newspapers, radio and television publicized the wanted criminals, tips flooded in to law enforcement agencies, the release said, resulting in the arrest of three gang leaders.

The three gang members arrested by Lake County Sheriff's officers and local police departments include:

- Derek Gordon of Waukegan, a member of the Four Corner Hustlers gang, wanted for unauthorized possession of a controlled substance, unauthorized delivery of a controlled substance and unauthorized delivery of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school.
- Cordale Handy of Waukegan, a member of the Four Corner Hustlers gang, wanted for carjacking.
- William Earl Gist of Beach Park, a member of the Majestics gang, wanted for aggravated battery/great bodily harm.

"The purpose of the Most Wanted List is to enlist the public in the fight against violent drug gangs," Kirk said. "We now have over 2,000 gang members living north of Lake-Cook Road, but thanks to tips from the public, these three gang leaders are now off the streets. The partnership we created with ATF, Sheriff Curran and local police departments will build on these successes to aggressively fight the gang threat in our communities. As the suburban population continues

to increase, so will our commitment to keep families safe from the drugs and violence associated with these criminals."

With the capture of the three fugitives, three more gang leaders have been added to the 10 Most Wanted List. They include:

- Darryl Lavar Mitchell of Waukegan, a member of the Latin Kings gang, wanted for aggravated battery/great bodily harm.
- Adrian Rivera of Zion, a member of the Latin Kings gang, wanted for aggravated battery/great bodily harm.
- Dion Lavell Edwards, a member of the Gangster Disciples gang, wanted for the manufacture/delivery of cocaine near a school or park, and contempt.

In February, Kirk announced an \$846,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant that he secured for a new Northern Illinois Gang Taskforce to coordinate federal and local law enforcement agencies to combat violent drug gangs operating out of Waukegan. The new taskforce allows local law enforcement to pursue federal prosecution and longer sentencing. Facing 20 years in prison instead of less than five, low-level gang members, according to the release, are now more likely to rat out organizations and help the Taskforce bring down ring leaders.